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Signature Date

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shirk, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/817,672  
Filing Date : March 26, 2001  
Title : BIODEGRADABLE VEHICLE COMPONENTS  
Art Unit : 3611  
Examiner :  
Attorney Docket : TRW(VSSIM)4686-1  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400  
May 25, 2001

**BOX IDS**

Commissioner Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.97 and \$1.98, and in compliance with 37 CFR \$1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending application, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth below.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

(a)  X  Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National stage.

(b)   Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

(c)   After the period set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a Notice of Allowance.

1)   A certification is given below, or

2)   Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$240.00) set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) for consideration of this statement, or

3)   Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

(d)   After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.

Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below.

1)   Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(i)(1) \$130.00, or

2)   Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

**(A duplicate of this Petition is attached)**

4. Certification (if applicable)

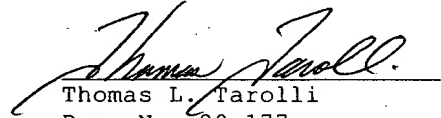
(a)   The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement. A copy of the foreign Search Report is enclosed.

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency fees, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Copies of the U.S. patents as noted on PTO form 1449 are attached. These references were cited in the parent U.S. Application Serial No. 09/591,638, filed June 9, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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